

Whippoorwill E-Comment

Number 27



October, 2004

An E-Journal Recommendation

FINDING a file format for E-Journals that all members are able to read can be a problem. Jim Kaplan uses Word Perfect, a format that I can easily read and convert files to, but his version (8) will not read newer versions of Word files. Austin Jones has similar problems – he uses Microsoft Works. But both can read PDF files, so I plan to convert all of my future journals to PDF. No big deal. I can do that with a single keystroke in my version of Word. This will allow all members to read PDF files of E-Journals, which should appear on their monitors exactly as I see them on mine when I create them.

More Montrose Photos



Shirley Simpson, Mike O'Connor, and Lee Hawes inspecting a Miehle Vertical press at Fritz Klinke's Silverton emporium.

Did you know that Glenn Simpson is an expert in orchids? Perhaps we can get him to write about his national orchid organizations connections. He has a greenhouse attached to his house, and he showed me a beautiful orchid he has grown.



One of my best spoiled pictures was taken in the Black Canyon of the Gunnison. It was backlit, and I was unable to shoot directly into the sun without getting lots of flare. Though the photo is badly flawed by this, I find the backlit Aspen in bloom to be one of my more memorable pictures. The road leading down to this tree had a 16% grade, with continuous switch-backs, and was near the bottom of the canyon. Glenn and Shirley scheduled the convention during the peak of Aspen



color. One of my all-time favorite Aspen stand photos is the superb black and white photo made by Ansel Adams. It is probably more effective in black and white than it is in color.

When I got home, I discovered to my dismay that I did not get any pictures of Dwane and Dolly Scott, but I am fortunate that Jiyani did. Here is Dwane checking out photos he had taken with his digital camera.



I believe that the quality of writing in E-Journals is generally superior to that I find in the bundles. This is not a criticism, but is a personal observation. No, I'm not including my *Whippoorwill E-Comment* among examples of what I consider some of the best written and most interesting journals around. I'm speaking of those of Hugh Singleton and Parker Snapp, whose writings flow and conjure vivid pictures in the mind of the reader. Parker's engineering background shines through his writings, as does his love of life and of continued learning. Learning didn't stop for him when his formal education ended. He has introduced many new and most interesting subjects to me – an introduction to the history of calculating engines and fractals, and of a lifetime love of camping and enjoying flora and fauna and for all of nature. I'm so glad he has returned to the AAPA.

He has enriched my life greatly. And then there is Bill Venrick, whose AAPA Alerts really are E-Journals. They have done more to hold the organization together, and to keep members informed than any other activity I have observed in my 34 years of membership. And Hugh Singleton is one of our best philosophers and writers, who writes about activities everyone thinks about but do not record in words. Through his writings I am able to look at everyday events through his eyes and can always hear his sonorous, southern accented voice as he thinks and writes about the important events in his life. I always feel he is writing about me, which I guess is the mark of a good sermon – to make a person believe he is being addressed individually. Bill Hopp has a draft of his first E-Journal, which is going to be distributed very soon. Bill is a superb writer, and a voracious reader of books that challenge the intellect. He is a particular fan of H. L. Mencken and spices up our e-mail correspondence with numerous pertinent quotes.

On Personal Letterpress

I have not abandoned letterpress despite my immersion recently in E-Journals. One of the reasons I switched to the new mode of expression is that I wanted to return to my first love in printing – producing miniature books. I have much of the type set for a new one already because I am no longer facing an uncomfortable deadline for producing a letterpress, or a desktopped journal to be photocopied for the bundles. This in no way is a criticism of the few letterpressed bundle contributors, from Dean Rea, Dave Schwartz, or Jim Kaplin. They are following their bliss, and I greatly appreciate their work. There is room for all in the American Amateur Press Association.

x x x x x

This wee paper is the work of J. Hill Hamon, 1515 Evergreen Road, Frankfort, Kentucky, 40602 – KyHamon@AOL.COM. It has been created on a Gateway PC on Microsoft Word in Times New Roman typeface, and saved and distributed as a PDF file.